(12)   **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

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(54)   **Organic vertical cavity phase-locked laser array device**

(57)   An organic vertical cavity phase-locked laser array device (100) includes a substrate (110), a bottom dielectric stack (120) reflective to light over a predetermined range of wavelengths, and an organic active region (130) for producing laser light. The device also includes a top dielectric stack (140) spaced from the bottom dielectric stack (120) and reflective to light over a predetermined range of wavelengths, and a patterned reflectance modulator (150) formed on a surface of the substrate (110) to define an array of spaced laser pixels (200) which have higher reflectance than the interpixel regions (210) and causes the array (200) to emit coherent phase-locked laser light (190).

FIG. 1

Description

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] Reference is made to commonly assigned U. S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/066,829 filed February 4, 2000 by Keith B. Kahen, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

[0002] The present invention relates to an organic vertical cavity laser light producing device.

[0003] Vertical cavity surface emitting lasers (VCSELs) based on inorganic semiconductors (for example, AlGaAs) have been developed since the mid-80's (K. Kinoshita and others, IEEE J. Quant. Electron. QE-23, 882 [1987]). They have reached the point where AlGaAs-based VCSELs emitting at 850 nm are manufactured by a number of companies and have lifetimes beyond 100 years (K.D. Choquette and others, Proc. IEEE 85, 1730 [1997]). With the success of these near-infrared lasers in recent years, attention has turned to other inorganic material systems to produce VCSELs emitting in the visible wavelength range (C. Wilmsen and others, *Vertical-Cavity Surface-Emitting Lasers,* Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2001). There are many applications for visible lasers, such as, display, optical storage reading/writing, laser printing, and short-haul telecommunications employing plastic optical fibers (T. Ishigure and others, Electron. Lett. 31, 467 [1995]). In spite of the worldwide efforts of many industrial and academic laboratories, much work remains to be done to create viable laser diodes (either edge emitters or VCSELs) which span the visible spectrum.

[0004] In the effort to produce visible wavelength VCSELs, it would be advantageous to abandon inorganic-based systems and focus on organic-based laser systems, since organic-based gain materials can enjoy the properties of low unpumped scattering/absorption losses and high quantum efficiencies. In comparison to inorganic laser systems, organic lasers are relatively inexpensive to manufacture, can be made to emit over the entire visible range, can be scaled to arbitrary size and, most importantly, are able to emit multiple wavelengths (such as red, green, and blue) from a single chip. The usual route for making a manufacturable laser diode system is to use electrical injection rather than optical pumping to create the necessary population inversion in the active region of the device. This is the case for inorganic systems since their optically pumped thresholds (P.L. Gourley and others, Appl. Phys. Lett. 54, 1209 [1989]) for broad-area devices are on the order of 10^4 W/cm^2. Such high power densities can only be achieved by using other lasers as the pump sources, precluding that route for inorganic laser cavities. Unpumped organic laser systems have greatly reduced combined scattering and absorption losses ($\sim$0.5 cm^{-1}) at the lasing wavelength, especially when one employs a host-dopant combination as the active media. As a result, optically pumped power density thresholds below 5 W/cm^2

should be attainable, especially when a VCSEL-based microcavity design is used in order to minimize the active volume (which results in lower thresholds). The importance of power density thresholds below 5 W/cm^2 is that it becomes possible to optically pump the laser cavities with inexpensive, off-the-shelf, incoherent LED's.

[0005] In order to produce single-mode milliwatt output power from an organic VCSEL device, typically it is necessary to have the diameter of the emitting area be on the order of 10 μm. As a result, 1 mW of output power would require that the device be optically pumped by a source producing $\sim$6000 W/cm^2 (assuming a 25% power conversion efficiency). This power density level (and pixel size) is far beyond the capabilities of LED's and, additionally, would most likely cause degradation problems with the organic materials if they were driven continuous wave (cw). A path around that problem is to increase the organic laser's emitting area diameter to around 350 μm, which would reduce the pump power density level to 4 W/cm^2 (to produce 1 mW of output power). This power density level and pixel size is achievable by off-the-shelf 400 nm inorganic LED's. Unfortunately, broad-area laser devices having 350 μm diameter emitting areas would lead to highly multimode output and to lower power conversion efficiencies (as a result of filamentation). As a result, it is highly advantageous to produce large area organic VCSEL devices, which have good power conversion efficiencies and single-mode outputs.

[0006] It is an object of this invention to provide an organic surface emitting laser arrangement that is particularly suitable to permit phase-locked laser emission from a two-dimensional array of micron-sized organic laser pixels.

[0007] These objects are achieved by an organic vertical cavity laser array device, comprising:

a) a substrate;
b) a patterned reflectance modulator defining pixel and interpixel regions and being disposed over the substrate;
c) a bottom dielectric stack disposed over the patterned reflectance modulator and being reflective to light over a predetermined range of wavelengths;
d) an organic active region disposed over the bottom dielectric stack for producing laser light; and
e) a top dielectric stack spaced from the bottom dielectric stack and reflective to light over a predetermined range of wavelengths so that an array of spaced laser pixels is defined, which have higher reflectance than the interpixel regions and causes the array to emit coherent phase-locked laser light.

[0008] It is an advantage of the present invention to provide two-dimensional organic laser array devices employing micron-sized laser pixels which can be either electrically or optically driven by large area sources and produce phase-locked laser output. The devices employ

a microcavity design incorporating high reflectance dielectric stacks for both the top and bottom reflectors; and have a gain media including small-molecular weight organic material. The micron-sized laser pixels of the device are provided by modulating the reflectance of the bottom dielectric stack. The emission from the pixels is phase-locked, which enables the device to be driven by a large area source while the laser output remains mainly single-mode. Combining low power density thresholds with pumping by large area sources enables the devices to be optically driven by inexpensive incoherent LED's.

FIG. 1 shows a side view schematic of an optically pumped two-dimensional phase-locked organic vertical cavity laser array made in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 2 shows a top view schematic of an optically pumped two-dimensional phase-locked organic vertical cavity laser array made in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 3 shows a graph of intensity vs. wavelength and depicts the laser emission spectra from an optically pumped two-dimensional phase-locked organic vertical cavity laser array;

FIG. 4 is a graph, similar to FIG. 3, of the laser emission spectra collected with a finer resolution from a two-dimensional phase-locked organic vertical cavity laser array;

FIG. 5 is graph which depicts optical output power vs. input power for a two-dimensional phase-locked organic vertical cavity laser array; and

FIG. 6 is a graph similar to FIG. 5 of the pump power in vs. the laser power out near the lasing transition region for a two-dimensional phase-locked organic vertical cavity laser array.

[0009] To enable a large area laser structure which emits single-mode, it is necessary to construct a two-dimensional phase-locked laser array device **100** as shown schematically in FIG. 1 and in accordance with the present invention. The substrate **110** can either be light transmissive or opaque, depending on the intended directions of optical pumping and laser emission. The substrate **110** may be transparent glass or plastic. Alternatively, opaque substrates including, but not limited to, semiconductor materials (for example, silicon) or ceramic materials may be used in the case where optical pumping and laser emission occur from the same surface.

[0010] As shown in FIG. 2, in order to form a two-dimensional phase-locked laser array **100**, on the surface of the VCSEL needs to be defined lasing pixels **200** separated by interpixel regions **210**. To obtain phase locking, intensity and phase information must be exchanged amongst the pixels. This is best obtained by weakly confining the laser emissions to the pixel regions by either small amounts of built-in index or gain guiding. As ap-

plied to two-dimensional inorganic laser arrays, a route for obtaining this weak confinement was to modulate the reflectance of the top dielectric stack by either adding metal (E. Kapon and M. Orenstein, US-A-5,086,430) or by deep etching into the top dielectric stack (P.L. Gourley and others, Appl. Phys. Lett. 58, 890 [1991]). In both inorganic laser array cases, the laser pixels were on the order of 3-5 μm wide (so as to enable single-mode action) and the interpixel spacing was 1-2 μm. Applying these results to organic laser systems requires some care since it is very difficult to perform micron-scale patterning on the laser structure once the organic layers have been deposited. As a result, in the preferred embodiment the reflectance modulation was affected by depositing and patterning either a metal or metal alloy so as to create a patterned reflectance modulator **150** on the substrate prior to deposition of the bottom dielectric stack **120**. The metal can be deposited by either conventional thermal evaporation, sputtering or electron-beam deposition techniques. The metal is patterned using standard photolithographic and etching techniques, thus forming a two-dimensional array of circular metallic pits on the surface of the substrate. In reference to FIG. 2, the metal is removed from the laser pixel regions **200**, while the metal remains in the interpixel regions **210**. In the preferred embodiment the shape of the laser pixels is circular; however, other pixel shapes are possible, such as, rectangular. The diameter of the laser pixels is in the range of 2 to 5 μm, since larger pixel diameters would result in multimode laser output. The interpixel spacing is in the range of 0.25 to 4 μm. Phase-locked array operation also occurs for larger interpixel spacings; however, it leads to inefficient usage of the optical-pumping energy. On the patterned reflectance modulator **150** defining pixel and interpixel regions is deposited a bottom dielectric stack **120**, which is composed of alternating high and low refractive index dielectric materials. The bottom dielectric stack **120** is designed to be reflective to laser light over a predetermined range of wavelengths. Typical high and low refractive index materials are TiO_2 and SiO_2, respectively. The bottom dielectric stack **120** is deposited by standard electron-beam deposition, where a typical deposition temperature is 240°C. Since the metal remains in the interpixel regions, the bottom dielectric stack **120** is designed such that the presence of the metal causes a decrease in the stack reflectance relative to its value with no metal present. Consequently, the net gain is largest in the laser pixel regions and as a result lasing occurs there. Besides affecting reflectance modulation, the metal in the interpixel regions also helps to prevent spontaneous emission from exiting the device in the direction of the laser emission **190**. It should be noted that Morgan and others (Morgan and others, Appl. Phys. Lett. 61, 1160 [1992]) for an inorganic phase-locked laser system used metal to lower the reflectance of one of their dielectric stacks (the top dielectric stack) and obtained phase-locked laser emission through the metal pattern. Their

design cannot be used for organic laser systems since it is very difficult to create micron-sized metal features on top of a dielectric stack **140** as a result of an organic active region **130** lying underneath the top dielectric stack **140**. The end result of the formation of the patterned reflectance modulator **150** is that the laser emission is weakly confined to the laser pixels **200**, no lasing originates from the interpixel regions **210**, and coherent phase-locked laser light is emitted by the array **100**.

[0011] The organic active region **130** is deposited over the bottom dielectric stack **120**. The active region can be composed of small-molecular weight organic material, conjugated polymeric organic material, or a combination of the two. The small-molecular weight organic material is typically deposited by high-vacuum (10^{-6} Torr) thermal evaporation, while the conjugated polymers are usually formed by spin casting. FIG. 1 shows that the organic active region **130** is not a bulk layer but a multilayer composite. Following the suggestions of Brueck and others (US-A-4,881,236) for inorganic lasers, the organic active region **130** contains one or more periodic gain regions **160**, which are separated by organic spacer layers **170**. The thickness of the periodic gain regions **160** is typically less than 50 nm, with a preferred thickness of 10 to 30 nm. The thicknesses of the organic spacer layers **170** are chosen such that the periodic gain regions are aligned with the antinodes of the laser cavity's standing electromagnetic field. Employing periodic gain regions in the active region results in larger power conversion efficiencies and a large reduction in the unwanted spontaneous emission. In summary, the active region **130** includes one or more periodic gain regions **160** and organic spacer layers **170** disposed on either side of the periodic gain region(s) and arranged so that the periodic gain region(s) is aligned with the antinodes of the device's standing wave electromagnetic field.

[0012] The periodic gain region(s) **160** is composed of either small-molecular weight organic material or polymeric organic material, which fluoresce with a high quantum efficiency. Typical polymeric materials are, for example, polyphenylenevinylene derivatives, dialkoxy-polyphenylenevinylenes, poly-para-phenylene derivatives, and polyfluorene derivatives, as taught by Wolk and others in commonly assigned US-A-6,194,119 B1 and references therein. In this embodiment, it is preferred to use small-molecular weight organic material since a host-dopant combination can be readily employed which results (via the mechanism of Forster energy transfer) in a very small unpumped band-to-band absorption coefficient, < 1 cm^{-1}, for the gain media at the lasing wavelength (M. Berggren and others, Nature 389, 466 [1997]). An example of a useful host-dopant combination for red-emitting lasers is aluminum tris (8-hydroxyquinoline) (Alq) as the host and [4-(dicyanomethylene)-2-t-butyl-6-(1,1,7,7-tetramethyljulolidyl-9-enyl)-4H-pyran] (DCJTB) as the dopant (at a volume fraction of 1.0%). Other host-dopant combinations can

be used for emission in other wavelength regions, such as, in the blue and green. For the organic spacer layer **170** it is preferred to use a material which is highly transparent to both the laser emission **190** and the pump-beam **180**. In this embodiment 1,1-Bis-(4-bis(4-methylphenyl)-amino-phenyl)-cyclohexane (TAPC) is chosen as the spacer material, since it has very low absorption throughout the visible and near UV spectrum and its index of refraction is slightly lower than that of most organic host materials. This refractive index difference is useful since it helps in maximizing the overlap between the standing electric-field antinodes and the periodic gain region(s) **160**.

[0013] Following the active region **130** is deposited the top dielectric stack **140**. The top dielectric stack **140** is spaced from the bottom dielectric stack and reflective to light over a predetermined range of wavelengths. Its composition is analogous to that of the bottom dielectric stack **120**. Since the top dielectric stack **140** is deposited over an organic-based active region, its deposition temperature must be kept low in order to avoid melting the organics. As a result, a typical deposition temperature for the top dielectric stack **140** is 70°C. In order to obtain good lasing performance, it is preferred that the peak reflectivities of the top **140** and bottom **120** dielectric stacks be greater than 99%, where smaller values result in larger lasing linewidths.

[0014] The laser pixels **200** in FIG. 2 are arranged in a square two-dimensional array, which under phase-locked operation results in each element being 180 degrees out of phase with its four nearest neighbors (E. Kapon and M. Orenstein, US-A-5,086,430). Other arrangements of the laser pixels **200** are allowed, such as linear arrays or other two-dimensional periodic arrangements of the pixels. However, as shown by Kapon and others (US-A-5,086,430), close-packed two-dimensional arrangements (such as a hexagonal lattice array) result in more complicated phase relationships between the neighboring pixels.

[0015] The two-dimensional phase-locked laser array device **100** is optically driven by an incident pump-beam source **180** and emits phase-locked laser emission **190**. Depending on the lasing power density threshold of the organic laser cavity, the pump-beam can be either focused laser light or incoherent LED light. FIG. 1 shows laser emission **190** through the bottom dielectric stack **120**. Alternatively, in the case of an opaque (for example, silicon) substrate, both optical pumping and laser emission occurs through the top dielectric stack 140. The operation of the optically pumped organic laser array device occurs by the following means. The pump-beam **180** transmits through the top dielectric stack **140**, and is absorbed by the periodic gain region(s) **160**, wherein some fraction of the pump-beam energy is re-emitted as longer wavelength laser light. When the pump-beam **180** enters through the top dielectric stack **140**, to ensure that the laser output **190** mainly exits through the bottom dielectric stack **120** and the sub-

strate **110**, it is necessary to choose the top dielectric stack peak reflectance to be greater than the bottom dielectric stack peak reflectance. To improve the power conversion efficiency of the device, it is common practice to add additional dielectric layers to both dielectric stacks, such that, the top dielectric stack **140** is highly transmissive to the pump-beam **180** and the bottom dielectric stack **120** is highly reflective to the pump-beam. The laser light is emitted by the laser pixels **200** and, as a result of the weak confinement, both phase and intensity information is exchanged amongst the pixels. As a result, coherent phase-locked laser emission occurs through the substrate **110**.

[0016] In an alternative embodiment of the present invention, the top dielectric stack **140** is replaced by the deposition of a reflective metal mirror layer. Typical metals are silver or aluminum, which have reflectivities in excess of 90%. It is preferred that the metals be deposited by vacuum thermal evaporation to avoid causing damage to the underlying organic layers. In this alternative embodiment, both the pump-beam **180** and the laser emission **190** would proceed through the substrate **110**.

[0017] The following examples are presented as further understandings of the present invention and are not to be construed as limitations thereon.

Example 1

[0018] In order to determine the lasing characteristics of the two-dimensional phase-locked laser arrays of FIGS. 1 and 2, laser structures were grown on precleaned 6-inch quartz substrates. Over the substrate **110** was deposited 100 nm of $TiAl_3$ metal **alloy** by conventional magnetron sputtering. Next, standard photolithographic techniques were used to pattern the metal so as to create a two-dimensional square array of 5 μm circular pits, with an edge-to-edge separation of 1 μm. A conventional chlorine-based plasma was used to etch through the metal in the laser pixel regions **200**. Over the patterned reflectance modulator **150** was deposited, by conventional electron-beam deposition, the bottom dielectric stack **120**, which was composed of alternating high and low refractive index layers of TiO_2 and SiO_2, respectively. The resulting dielectric mirror had a measured peak reflectance of ~99.44% at 660 nm. On the top of the bottom dielectric stack **120** was deposited, by high vacuum thermal evaporation, the organic active region **130**, where in order was grown 173 nm of TAPC, 30 nm of Alq with 1% DCJTB, and 185 nm of TAPC. Lastly, the top dielectric stack **140** was deposited by low temperature electron-beam deposition, such that the measured temperature of the quartz substrate was kept below 72° C. It was composed of alternating high and low refractive index layers of TiO_2 and SiO_2, respectively. The resulting dielectric mirror had a measured peak reflectance of ~99.98% at 660 nm.

[0019] To test the devices for both their spectral and power characteristics, the laser cavities were optically pumped normal to the top side of the device using the 403 nm output from a 5 mW Nichia laser diode. The pump laser produced 50 nsec laser pulses at a repetition rate of 5 KHz. The pump-beam intensity was adjusted by the combination of two neutral density wheels and it was focused onto the laser cavity surface using a 1000 mm lens. The resulting measured pump-beam spot size on the device surface was elliptical with dimensions of 177 x 243 μm. The laser output **190** from the cavity was focused on the entrance slit of a Spex double monochrometer (0.22 m) by the combination of a 50 mm f2 lens and a 100 mm f4 lens nearest the slit (resulting in a 2X magnification of the laser's near-field image). The resolution of the monochrometer is approximately 0.45 nm; its output was detected by a cooled Hamamatsu photomultiplier tube.

[0020] FIGS. 3 and 4 (a high resolution scan of the two laser features) shows the laser spectrum collected by the 0.25 NA (numerical aperture) lens. The sample has two laser peaks, the $TEM_{0,0}$ at 663.1 nm and the $TEM_{1,0}$ at 659.6 nm, whose full-width at half-maximum (FWHM) are 0.66 and 0.78 nm, respectively. On the long wavelength side of the $TEM_{0,0}$ peak, the spontaneous emission signal is within the noise of the spectrometer. On the short wavelength side of the $TEM_{1,0}$ peak, the spontaneous emission signal is larger, with its average intensity being 20 dB smaller than the $TEM_{0,0}$ lasing peak intensity.

[0021] A plot of the pump-beam power in versus laser power output is given in FIG. 5. As can be seen from the figure, the VCSEL array has a power density threshold of ~0.03 W/cm^2. This result is two orders of magnitude lower than our previous result for small-diameter (2.5 μm) broad-area devices and three orders of magnitude better than that reported in the organic laser literature (Berggren and others, Nature 389, 466 [1997]). The large drop in threshold relative to that for the small-diameter broad-area devices is most likely due to less localized heating and to much reduced diffraction losses. The figure shows that following the sharp rise in slope after the lasing threshold, the slope once more begins to fall off for input power densities an order of magnitude above lasing. This exact same trend occurred for the broad-area devices; consequently, the effect is not specific to the arrays but generic of organic VCSELs. It is currently believed to be mainly due to thermal effects. To get a close-up view of the lasing transition region, the laser output curve is replotted in FIG. 6 on a linear scale. The figure shows that the array has a very sharp turn-on and has linear laser output to approximately an order of magnitude above the lasing threshold.

Claims

1. An organic vertical cavity laser array device, comprising:

a) a substrate;

b) a patterned reflectance modulator defining pixel and interpixel regions and being disposed over the substrate;

c) a bottom dielectric stack disposed over the patterned reflectance modulator and being reflective to light over a predetermined range of wavelengths;

d) an organic active region disposed over the bottom dielectric stack for producing laser light; and

e) a top dielectric stack spaced from the bottom dielectric stack and reflective to light over a predetermined range of wavelengths so that an array of spaced laser pixels is defined. which have higher reflectance than the interpixel regions and causes the array to emit coherent phase-locked laser light.

2. The organic vertical cavity laser array device of claim 1 wherein the active region includes one or more periodic gain region(s) and organic spacer layers disposed on either side of the periodic gain region(s) and arranged so that the periodic gain region(s) is aligned with the antinodes of the device's standing wave electromagnetic field.

3. The organic vertical cavity laser array device of claim 1 wherein pump-beam light is transmitted and introduced into the organic active region through the top dielectric stack.

4. The organic vertical cavity laser array device of claim 1 wherein the organic active region is a combination of a host material and a dopant and the spacer layer is substantially transparent to pump-beam light and laser light.

5. The organic vertical cavity laser array device of claim 4 wherein the host material is aluminum tris (8-hydroxyquinoline), the dopant is [4-(dicyanomethylene)-2-t-butyl-6-(1,1,7,7-tetramethyljulolidyl-9-enyl)-4H-pyran], and the organic spacer layer is 1,1-Bis-(4-bis(4-methyl-phenyl)-aminophenyl)-cyclohexane.

6. The organic vertical cavity laser array device of claim 1 wherein the interpixel spacing is in the range of .25 to 4 microns.

7. The organic vertical cavity laser array device of claim 1 wherein the organic active region includes polymeric materials.

8. The organic vertical cavity laser array device of claim 1 wherein the pixels are arranged in a linear array.

9. The organic vertical cavity laser array device of claim 1 wherein the pixels are arranged in a two-dimensional square array.

10. An organic vertical cavity laser array device, comprising:

a) a substrate;

b) a patterned reflectance modulator defining pixel and interpixel regions and being disposed over the substrate;

c) a bottom dielectric stack disposed over the patterned reflectance modulator and being reflective to light over a predetermined range of wavelengths;

d) an organic active region disposed over the bottom dielectric stack for producing laser light; and

e) a metallic layer spaced from the bottom dielectric stack and reflective to light over a predetermined range of wavelengths so that an array of spaced laser pixels is defined, which have higher reflectance than the interpixel regions so that the array emits coherent phase-locked laser light.
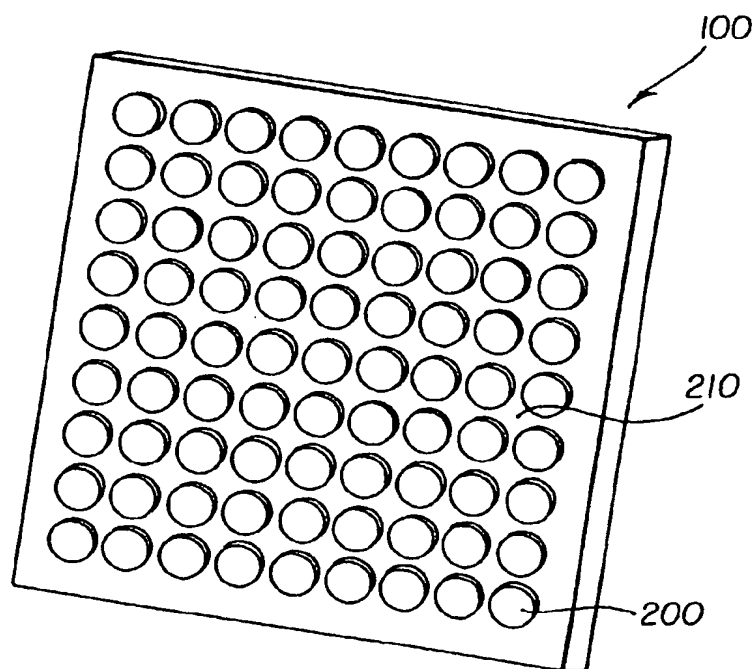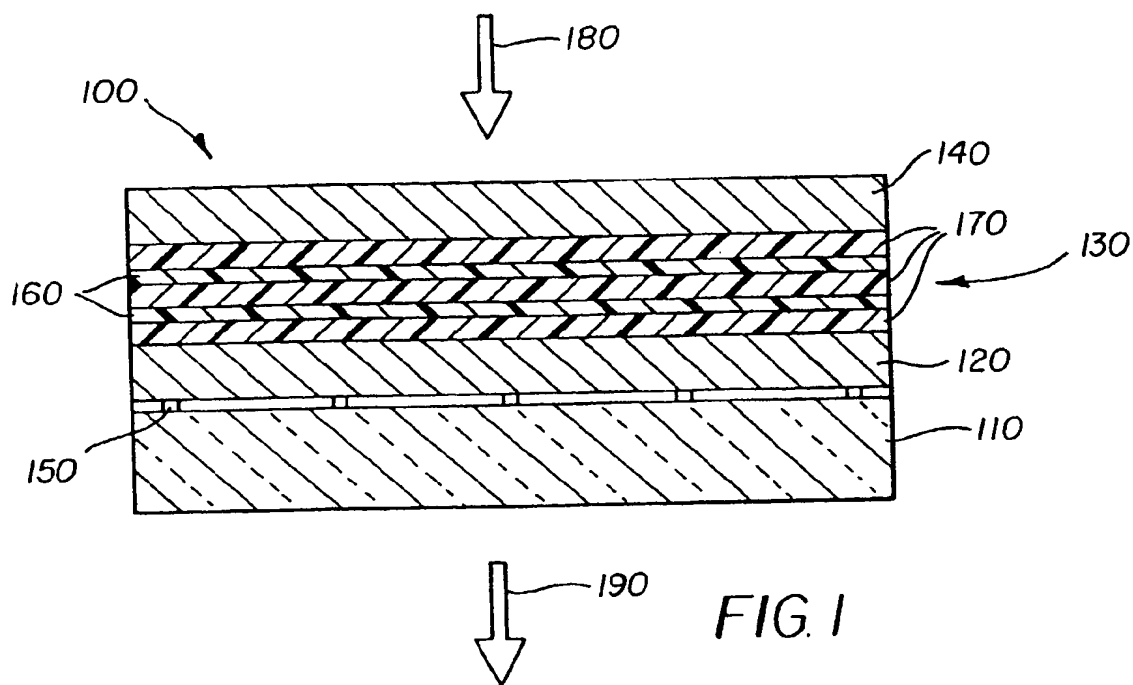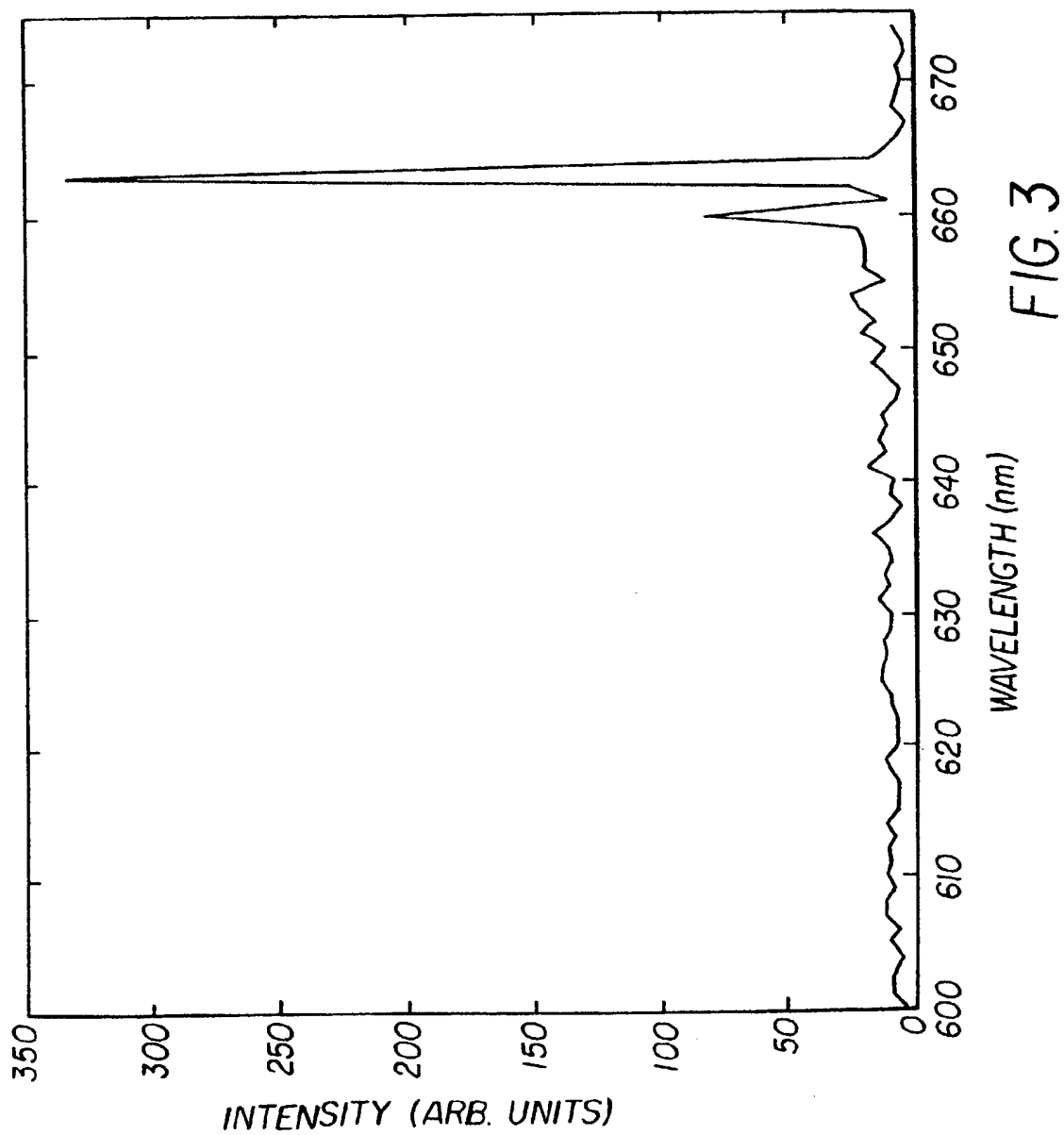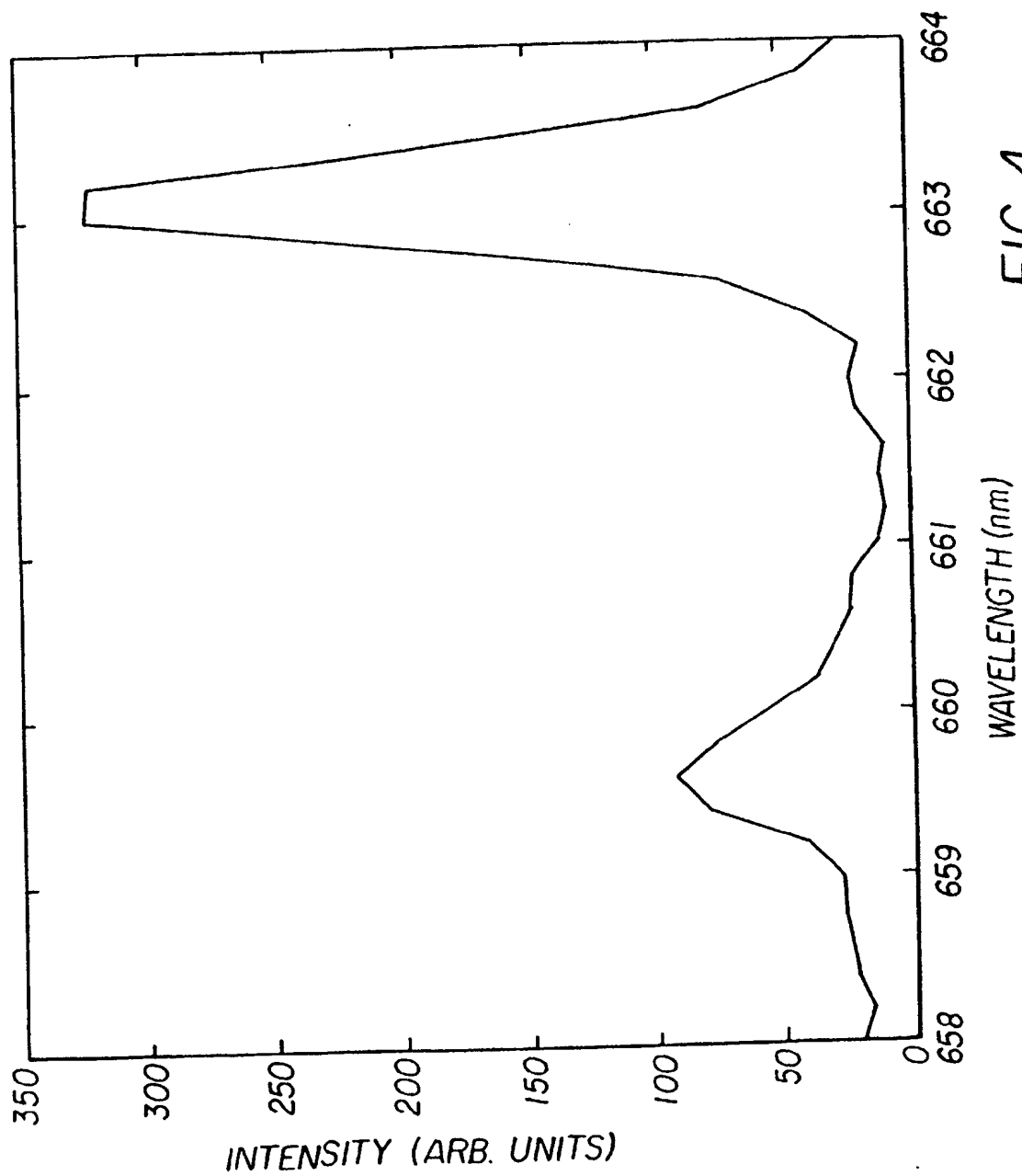
FIG. 1
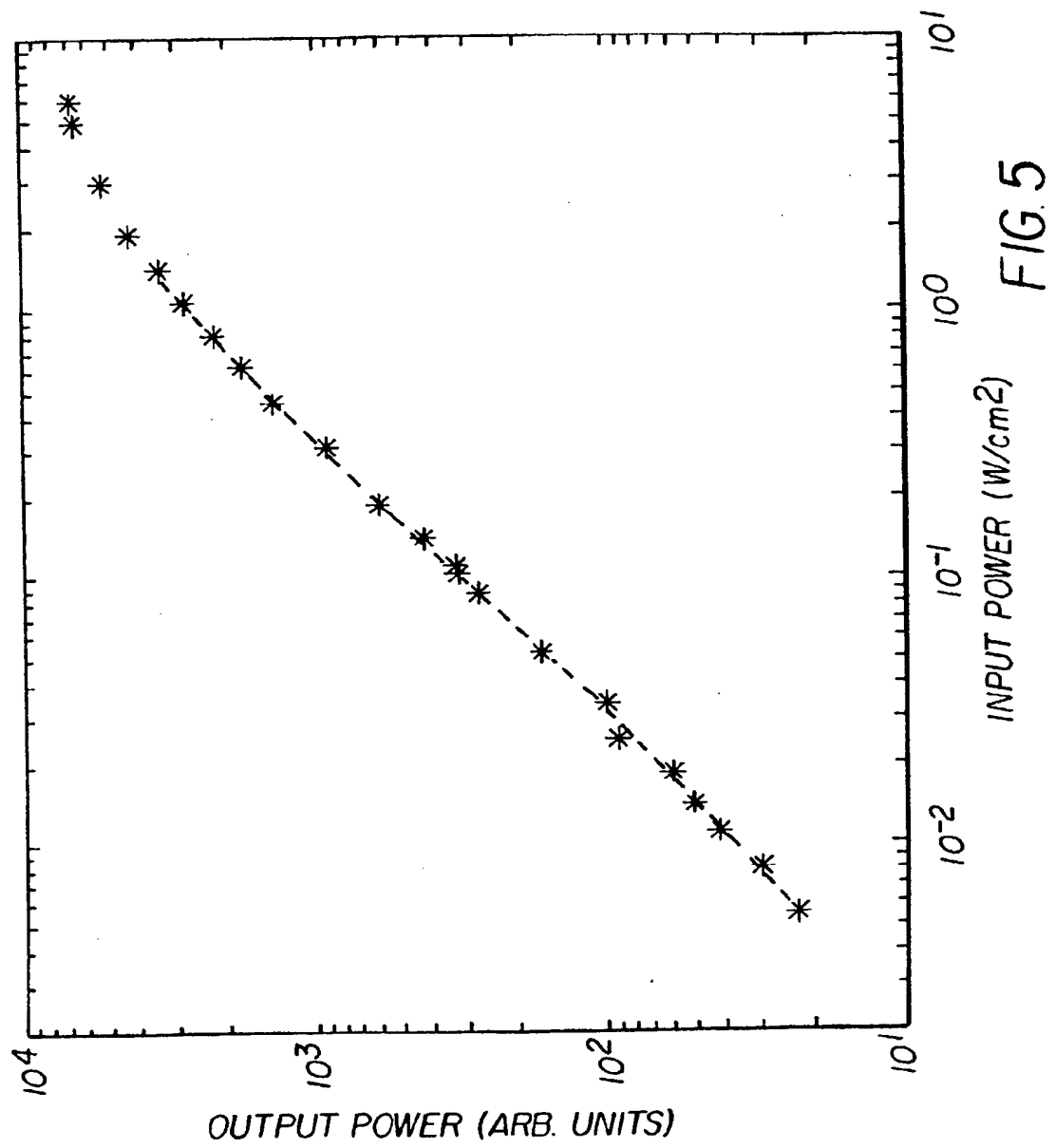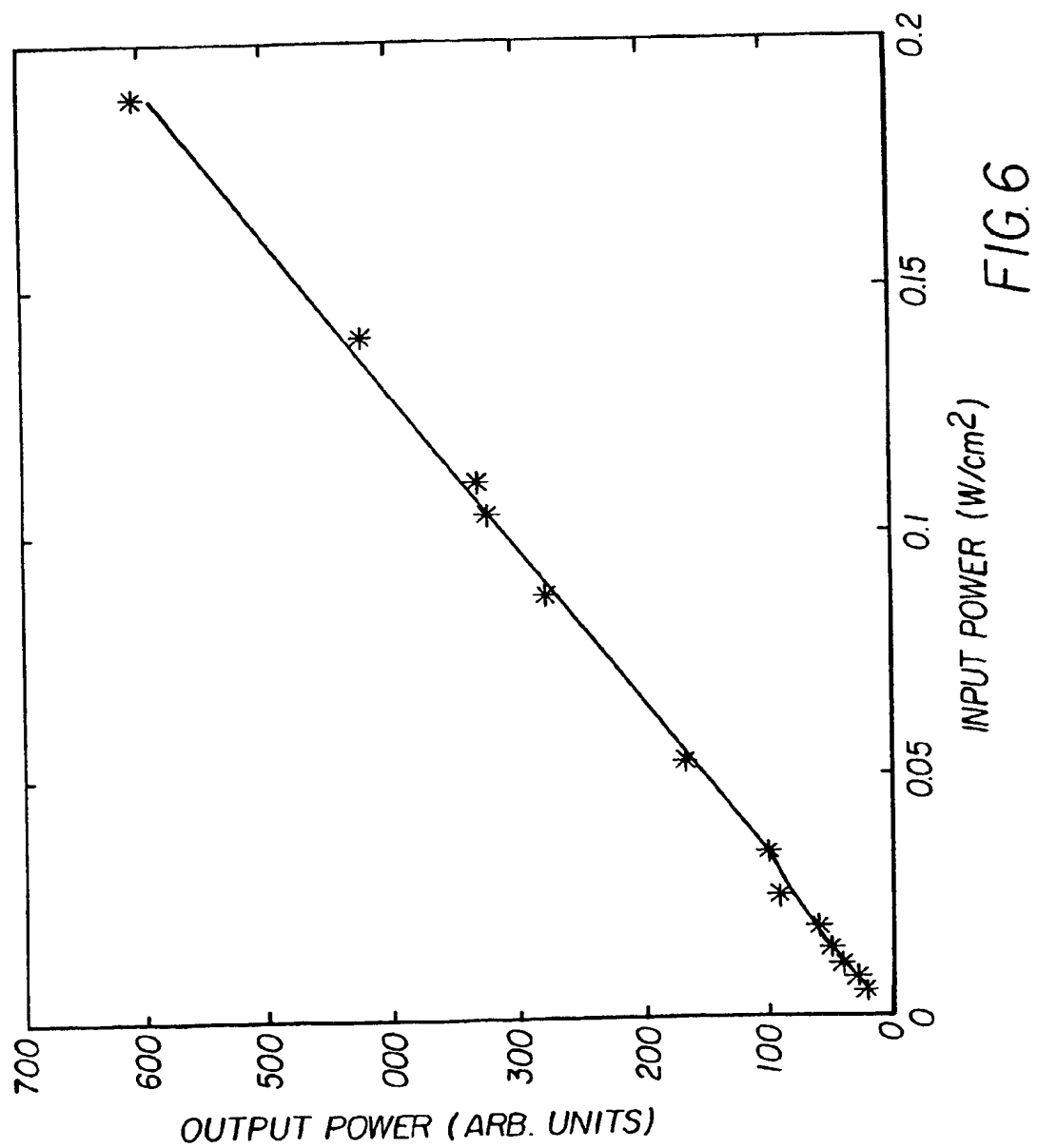
FIG. 2

FIG. 3

FIG. 4

FIG 5

INPUT POWER (W/cm2)

OUTPUT POWER (ARB. UNITS)

FIG.6

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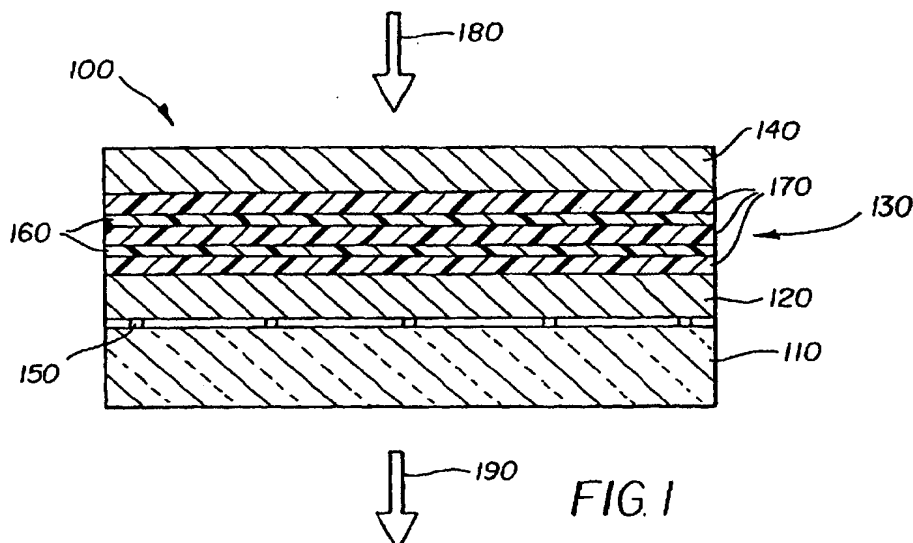
FIG. 1

EP 1 365 490 A3

European Patent Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 03 07 6414

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
A	US 6 160 828 A (FORREST STEPHEN R ET AL) 12 December 2000 (2000-12-12) * column 3, line 35 - column 7, line 16; figures 1,2,6,8 *	1-10	H01S5/42 H01S5/183 H01S5/30
A	GOURLEY P L ET AL: "SURFACE-EMITTING SEMICONDUCTOR LASER STRUCTURES FABRICATED BY MICROLITHOGRAPHY" JOURNAL OF NONLINEAR OPTICAL PHYSICS & MATERIALS, WORLD SCIENTIFIC PUBLISHING, CO, SI, vol. 4, no. 1, 1995, pages 27-81, XP000494886 ISSN: 0218-8635 * page 37, paragraph 3 * * page 46, paragraph 2 - page 59, paragraph 3 *	1-4,6, 8-10	
A	BURNS S E ET AL: "High finesse organic microcavities" OPTICAL MATERIALS, ELSEVIER SCIENCE PUBLISHERS B.V. AMSTERDAM, NL, vol. 9, no. 1-4, 1998, pages 18-24, XP004122993 ISSN: 0925-3467 * the whole document *	1,7,10	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) H01S
A	EP 0 847 094 A (HITACHI LTD) 10 June 1998 (1998-06-10) * column 5, line 21 - column 7, line 16; column 8, line 34 - line 38; column 9, line 2 - line 9 * * figure 7C *	1,10	

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
MUNICH	26 April 2004	Riechel, S

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

X : particularly relevant if taken alone
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A : technological background
O : non-written disclosure
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E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date
D : document cited in the application
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 03 07 6414

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
MUNICH	26 April 2004	Riechel, S

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